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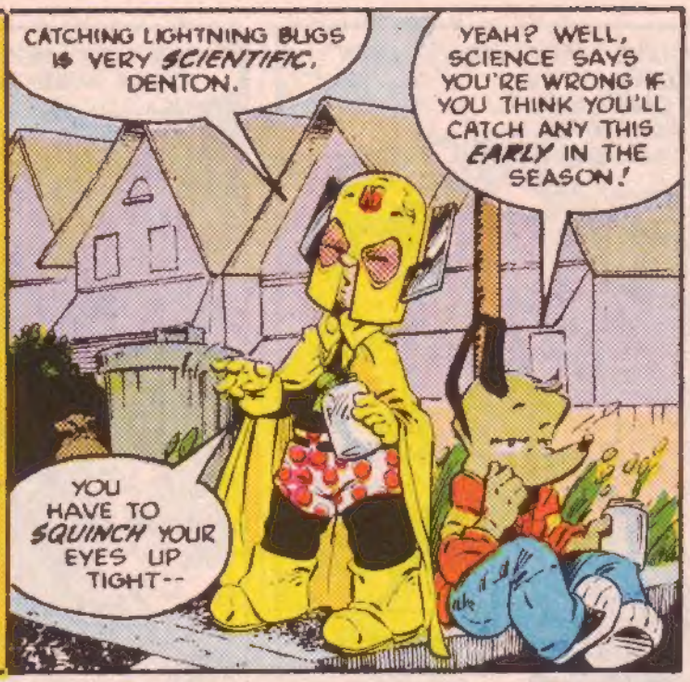
JULY 86
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
'mazing man
THIS IS IT! "A NIGHT IN OCTOBER'S"
WHO are the LORDS OF THE ULTRA REALM?
PLUS!! THE VERY FUN ADVENTURES OF ZOOTSPUNIK AND HIS FRIENDS! by FIXX & HEMBECK

'mazing man

by BOB ROZAKIS & STEPHEN DeSTEFANO

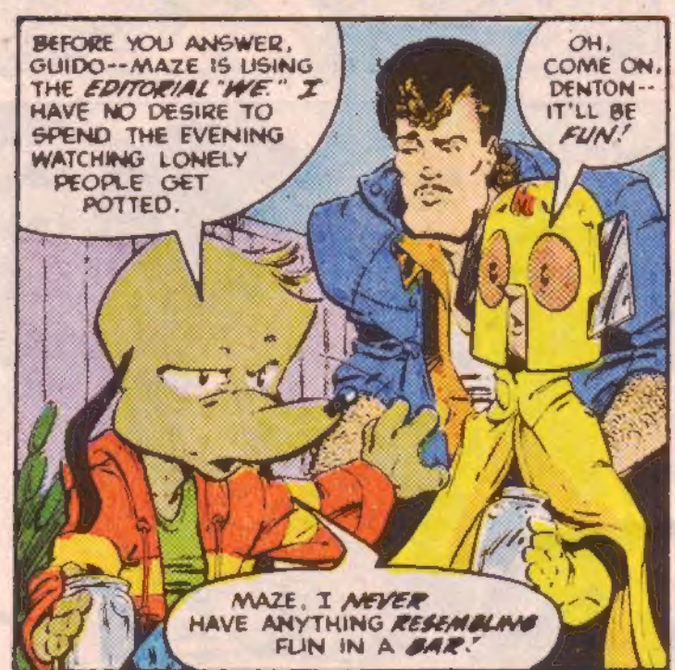
and...KARL KESEL *inker*, BOB LAPPAN *letterer*, TOM ZIUKO *colorist*, ALAN GOLD *crisis coordinator*

a night in OCTOBER'S


CATCHING LIGHTNING BUGS IS VERY *SCIENTIFIC*, DENTON.
YEAH? WELL, SCIENCE SAYS YOU'RE WRONG IF YOU THINK YOU'LL CATCH ANY THIS *EARLY* IN THE SEASON!
YOU HAVE TO *SQUINCH* YOUR EYES UP TIGHT--

--THEN, WHEN YOU SPOT ONE, YOU SIGNAL EVERYBODY WITH YOUR *BUG-SPOTTER'S WHISTLE*...
WHICH COVERS THE SOUND YOU MAKE UNSCREWING THE LID OF YOUR JAR-- I GET IT!

WANNA CATCH LIGHTNING BUGS WITH DENTON AND ME?
STOP
SOME OTHER TIME, OKAY? *I'M* MEETIN' AN OLD BUDDY AT *OCTOBER'S* TONIGHT!
WOW! CAN *WE* COME?


BEFORE YOU ANSWER, GUIDO--MAZE IS USING THE *EDITORIAL "WE."* I HAVE NO DESIRE TO SPEND THE EVENING WATCHING LONELY PEOPLE GET POTTED.
OH, COME ON, DENTON-- IT'LL BE *FUN!*
MAZE, I *NEVER* HAVE ANYTHING *RESEMBLING* FUN IN A *BAR.*

'MAZING MAN 7. Published monthly by DC Comics Inc., 666 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10103. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 'MAZING MAN, DC Comics Inc., Subscription Dept., P.O. Box 1308-F, Fort Lee, NJ 07024. Annual subscription rate $9.00. Outside U.S.A. $11.00 in U.S. funds. Copyright © 1986 DC Comics Inc. All Rights Reserved. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of DC Comics Inc. Advertising Representative: Print Advertising Representatives Inc., 355 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017. (212) 391-1400. Printed in U.S.A.
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YOU'VE MADE ME AN OFFER I CAN'T REFUSE! ALL RIGHT, I'LL COME--
YAY!
--AFTER I GO HOME AND CHANGE.
OKAY, BUT HURRY UP, OR YOU'LL MISS THE FUN!
AND, DENTON-- YOU'D BETTER PUT THE LID ON YOUR JAR OR FRED WILL FLY AWAY!
"FRED"?
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW!
HI, FRED!
NOW REMEMBER--ALL THE HOT MAMAS WHO ASK YOU TO INTRODUCE 'EM TO ME-- YOU ONLY TELL 'EM, MAYBE!
AND ANYTHING HAPPENS-- YOU AIN'T SURE HOW TO HANDLE YERSELF--JUST FOLLOW MY LEAD, OKAY?
OCTOBER'S PUB
OKAY, GUIDO! YOU CAN COUNT ON ME!
'EY, MURPH. CHECK MY COAT. 'ANH?
DONE, GUIDO. NICE THREADS, BABE.
HEY, MURPH. CHECK MY MAYONNAISE JAR, PLEASE.
UH...RIGHT.
I HOPE THE NON-SMOKERS HERE ARE AWARE OF THE DANGERS OF "PASSIVE SMOKING"!
--BLOW UP A BUS, AND BURNED HIS MOUTH-HAIR-ON THE TAILPIPE!
--THERAPIST SAYS I DRINK TOO MUCH AND GOTTA QUIT. SO I DID-- I QUIT THERAPY!
YO, GUIDO-- GUIDO GARIBALDI... BOOMBAH!
'EY, SPAZ-- IZZAT YOU?!
BILLY ANSWERED THE PHONE AND SAID THE SITTER WAS TIED UP AT THE MOMENT. COUPLE OF SQUARE KNOTS AND A DOUBLE-HITCH!

I FIGURED YOU WAS GONNA STAY IN JERSEY FOREVER, SPAZ!
NOBODY STAYS IN JERSEY FOREVER, GUIDO... UNLESS THEY'RE BURIED THERE!
AHEM!
I DON'T LOOK DEAD, DO I?
'EY! YOU'RE LOOKIN' GOOD AS EVER TO ME!
AHEM!
OH! TOMMY SPACIPOLLA, I WAN'CHA TO MEET SOMEBODY...
UH--FRIEND OF YOURS?
NAH--MY BODYGUARD (heh).
NO, ACTUALLY, HE'S MY UPSTAIRS NEIGHBOR, IS ALL.
HI!
GREAT. COULDJA GET HIM TO QUIT HUGGIN' ME NOW?
SURE! MAZE--STOP!
SO. STILL SEEIN' ANY OF THE OLD GANG?
SURE! IN FACT, I BRUNG SOMEBODY WIT' ME TONIGHT!
'EY, VIC!--LOOKIT WHO'S HERE!
GRIMOLI!
'EYYY--WUDDAYA KNOW! "ONE-BEER" GUIDO GARIBALDI HISSELF!
STILL SEEIN' DOUBLE AFTER HALF A BOTTLE, GUIDO? HA! HA-HA! HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
DOUBLE THE FUN, AM I RIGHT?
ANOTHER OLD FRIEND OF GUIDO'S!
HI!
THUC
HUNH?!

WHUDDAYA GOT, CAPPICOLA FOR BRAINS?! GETCHER HANDS OFF'A ME, YA FRUITCAKE!
SHUV
WATCH IT, GRIMOLLI! YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO MY BUDDY!
YER "BUDDY"? GONNA SIP SOME PEAR-EE-AIR WATER TOGETHER?
OOH, PERRIER SOUNDS NEAT-- WITH LIME?
SHUV
'EY, I JUST REMEMBERED WHEN YOU GOT THE NAME "ONE-BEER"! IT WAS THAT PARTY IN YOUR FOLKS' BASEMENT, WHEN VITO TRIED FLUSHIN' YER SISTER'S SHOES DOWN THE TOILET!
AND YOU SMUGGLED IN THAT CASE O' BEER AN' HID IT REAL GOOD...
...ONLY YOU CHUG-A-LUGGED ONE CAN BEFORE ANYBODY GOT THERE AND PASSED OUT-- BOOM!-- WITHOUT TELLIN' US WHERE YOU HID THE CASE!
"ONE-BEER" GARIBALDI AND HIS ONE-BEER PARTY!
OH, YEAH? AND I GUESS YOU NEVER GOT PLASTERED, HUNH?
NOT AS FAST AS YOU.
SLAM
YEAH, WELL, THAT WAS THEN! MAYBE THINGS'VE CHANGED, 'ANH? SET 'EM UP, SAL -- AND KEEP 'EM COMIN'! THIS IS WAR!
DRINKING CONTEST!
YAY, GUIDO!
MY MONEY'S ON THE FAT GUY!
4

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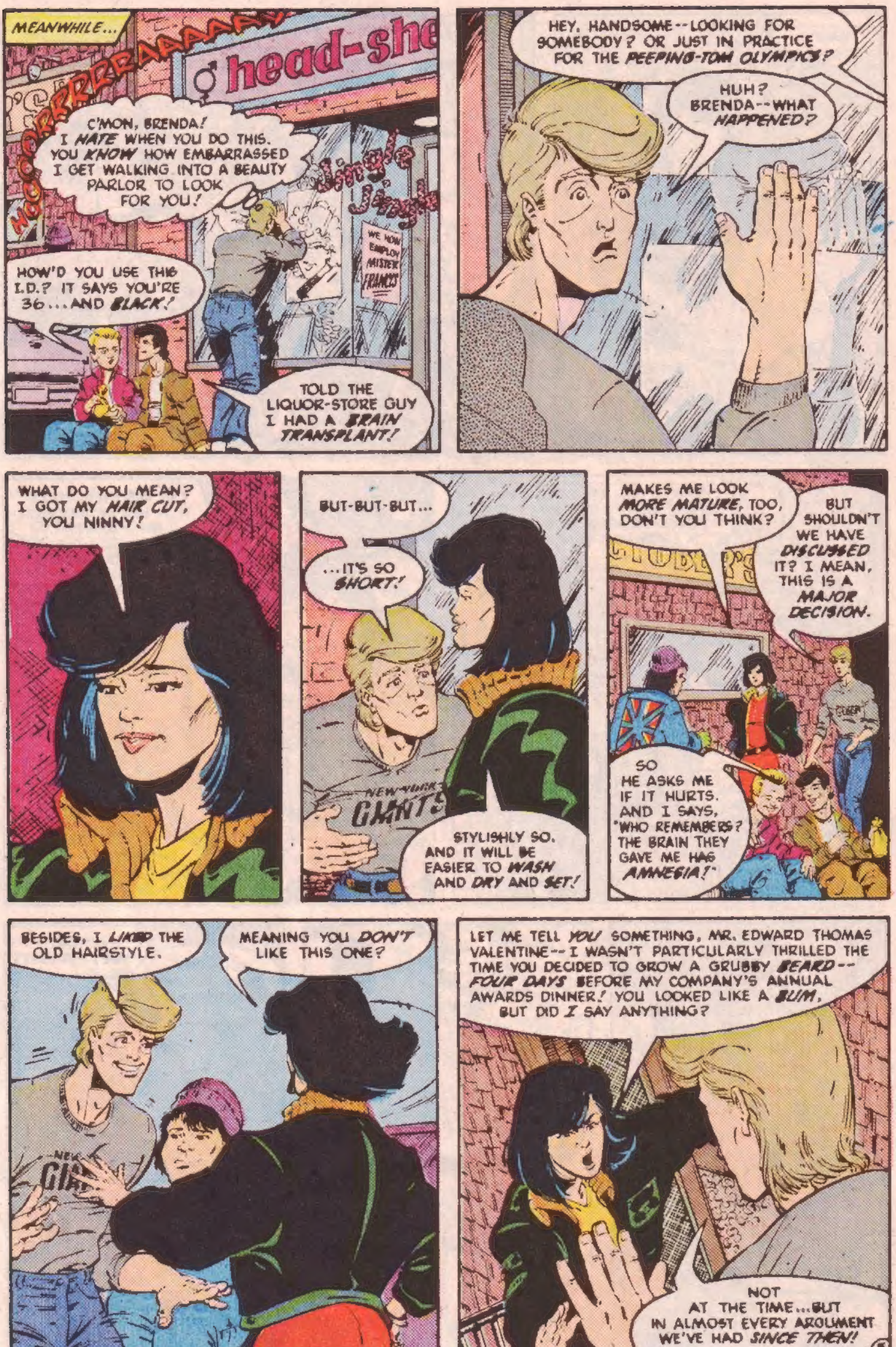
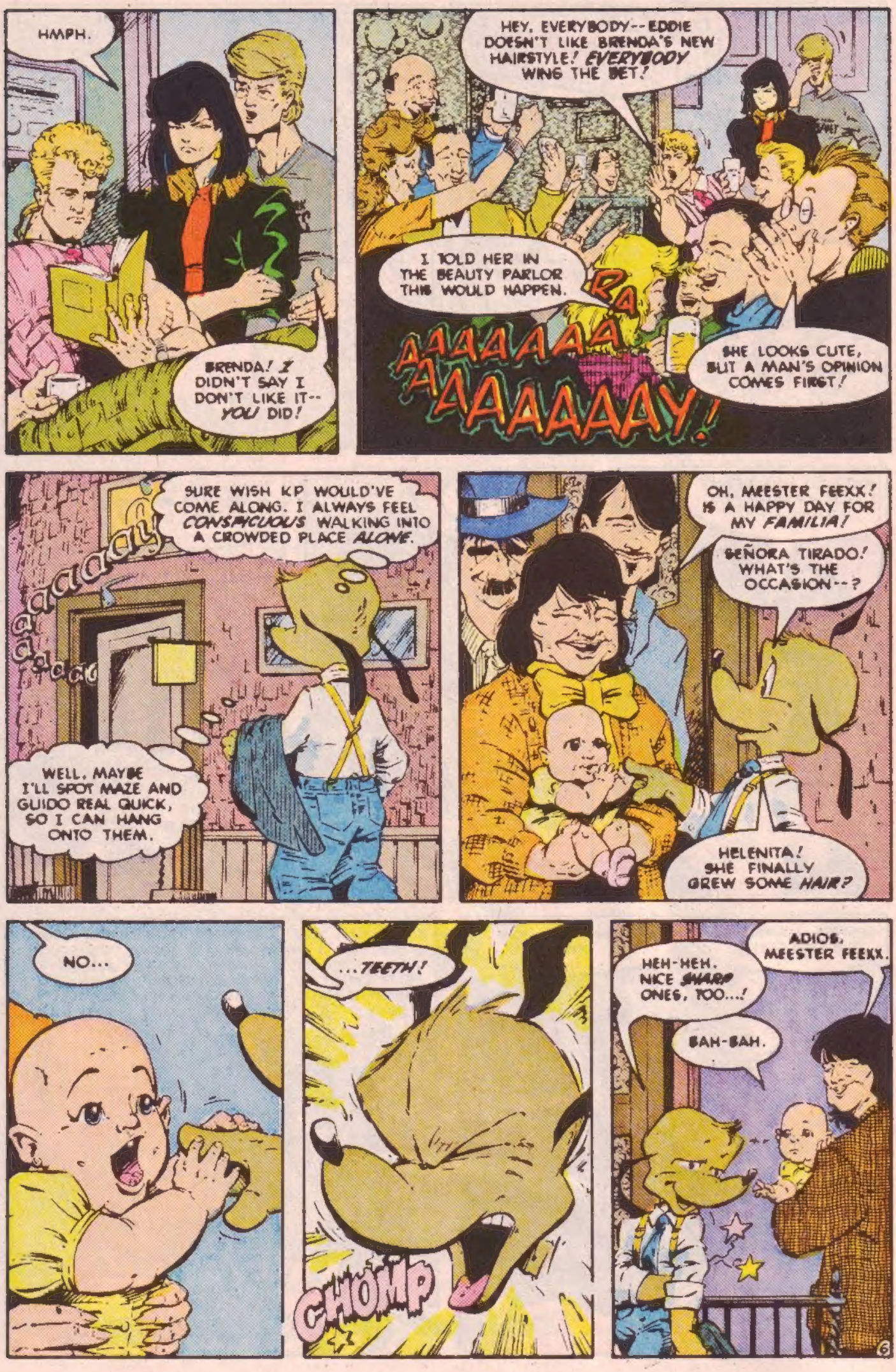

MEANWHILE...
HOOOORRRRRAAAAAY
head-she
C'MON, BRENDA! I HATE WHEN YOU DO THIS. YOU KNOW HOW EMBARRASSED I GET WALKING INTO A BEAUTY PARLOR TO LOOK FOR YOU!
Jingle Jingle
WE NOW EMPLOY MISTER FRANCIS
HOW'D YOU USE THIS I.D.? IT SAYS YOU'RE 36...AND BLACK!
TOLD THE LIQUOR-STORE GUY I HAD A BRAIN TRANSPLANT!
HEY, HANDSOME--LOOKING FOR SOMEBODY? OR JUST IN PRACTICE FOR THE PEEPING-TOM OLYMPICS?
HUH? BRENDA--WHAT HAPPENED?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I GOT MY HAIR CUT, YOU NINNY!
BUT-BUT-BUT...
...IT'S SO SHORT!
NEW YORK GIANTS
STYLISHLY SO. AND IT WILL BE EASIER TO WASH AND DRY AND SET!
MAKES ME LOOK MORE MATURE, TOO, DON'T YOU THINK?
BUT SHOULDN'T WE HAVE DISCUSSED IT? I MEAN, THIS IS A MAJOR DECISION.
SO HE ASKS ME IF IT HURTS. AND I SAYS, "WHO REMEMBERS? THE BRAIN THEY GAVE ME HAS AMNESIA!"
BESIDES, I LIKED THE OLD HAIRSTYLE.
MEANING YOU DON'T LIKE THIS ONE?
LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, MR. EDWARD THOMAS VALENTINE--I WASN'T PARTICULARLY THRILLED THE TIME YOU DECIDED TO GROW A GRUBBY BEARD--FOUR DAYS BEFORE MY COMPANY'S ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER! YOU LOOKED LIKE A BUM, BUT DID I SAY ANYTHING?
NOT AT THE TIME...BUT IN ALMOST EVERY ARGUMENT WE'VE HAD SINCE THEN!
5


HMPH.
BRENDA! I DIDN'T SAY I DON'T LIKE IT-- YOU DID!
HEY, EVERYBODY--EDDIE DOESN'T LIKE BRENDA'S NEW HAIRSTYLE! EVERYBODY WINS THE BET!
I TOLD HER IN THE BEAUTY PARLOR THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAY!
SHE LOOKS CUTE, BUT A MAN'S OPINION COMES FIRST!
aaaay
SURE WISH KP WOULD'VE COME ALONG. I ALWAYS FEEL CONSPICUOUS WALKING INTO A CROWDED PLACE ALONE.
WELL, MAYBE I'LL SPOT MAZE AND GUIDO REAL QUICK, SO I CAN HANG ONTO THEM.
OH, MEESTER FEEXX! IS A HAPPY DAY FOR MY FAMILIA!
SEÑORA TIRADO! WHAT'S THE OCCASION--?
HELENITA! SHE FINALLY GREW SOME HAIR?
NO...
...TEETH!
CHOMP
HEH-HEH. NICE SHARP ONES, TOO...!
ADIOS, MEESTER FEEXX.
BAH-BAH.
6

NOBODY'S STARING AT YOU, DENTON! JUST MARCH RIGHT IN AND--

NO, CARLOS, IS NOT A *TALKING DOG*. IS A MAN WITH A *DOG FACE*.

JUST A MOMENT!

HUH?!

MAYBE HE COULD DATE JUANITA!

WHERE DO YOU THINK *YOU'RE* GOING?

WELL, UH, SINCE THIS IS THE DOOR TO *OCTOBER'S* AND I WAS *ATTEMPTING* TO WALK *THROUGH* IT, ONE *COULD* POSTULATE THAT I WAS GOING *INSIDE THE BAR*...

...UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'RE REALLY *ROD SERLING* AND I'M ABOUT TO CROSS OVER INTO THE *TWILIGHT ZONE*...

...WHICH I SUSPECT MIGHT VERY WELL BE THE CASE...

MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY. HAVE SOME IDENTIFICATION?

THIS IS INCREDIBLE! TWENTY-NINE YEARS OLD AND I'M GETTING PROOFED IN A BAR.

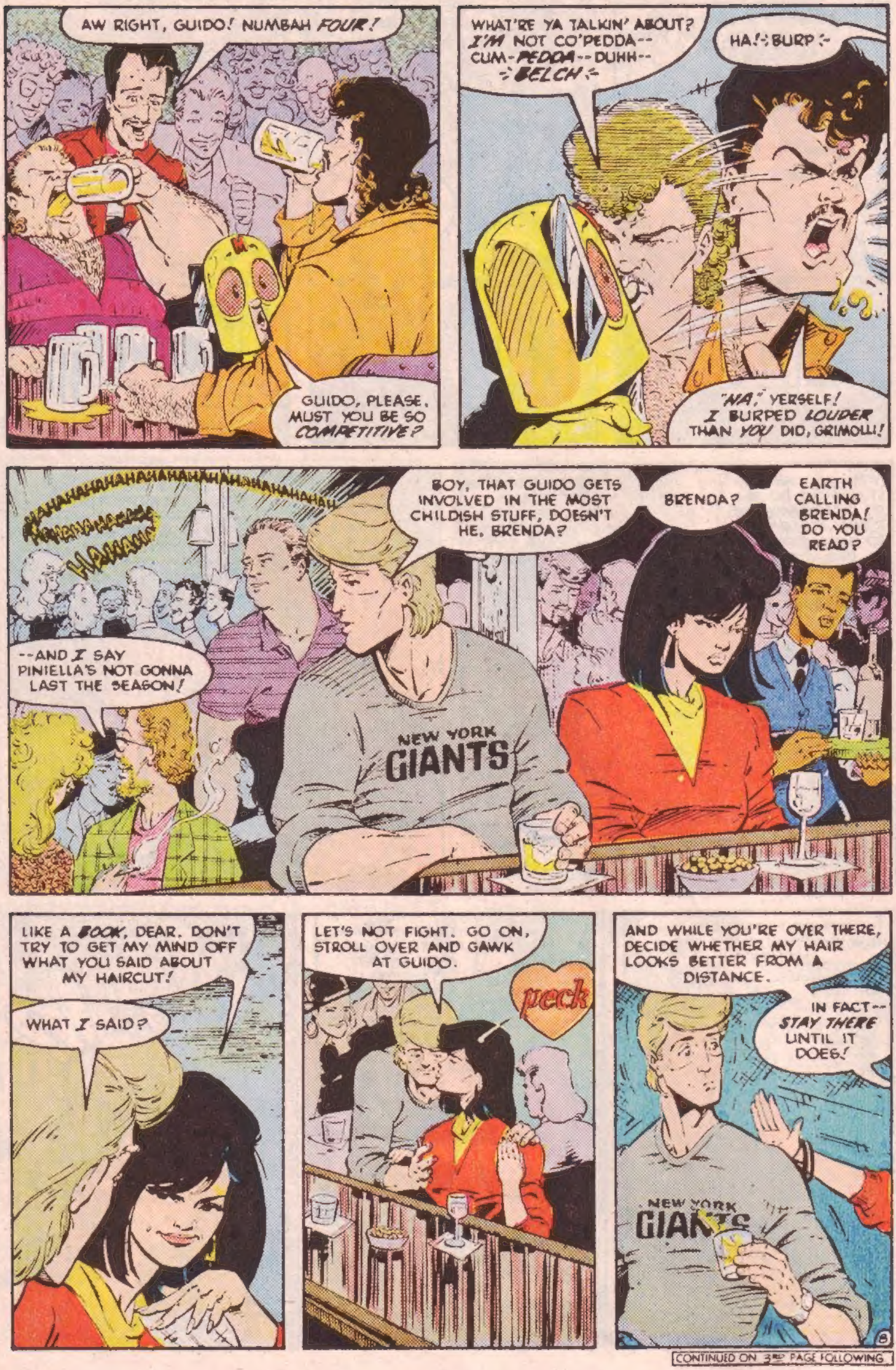
OKAY--HERE'S MY DRAFT CARD.

THERE'S NO PICTURE ON IT. HOW DO I KNOW IT'S REALLY *YOURS*?

YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? "HEIGHT: 4'10". WEIGHT: 95 lb." YOU *REALLY* THINK THIS BELONGS TO *SOMEBODY ELSE*?

SORRY. THE OWNER'S GOT A LICENSE TO PROTECT.

WHAM!


AW RIGHT, GUIDO! NUMBAH FOUR!
GUIDO, PLEASE. MUST YOU BE SO COMPETITIVE?
WHAT'RE YA TALKIN' ABOUT? I'M NOT CO'PEDDA-- CUM-PEDDA--DUHH-- BELCH
HA!- BURP
"HA," YERSELF! I BURPED LOUDER THAN YOU DID, GRIMOLI!
HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH
HAHAHAHAHA
BOY, THAT GUIDO GETS INVOLVED IN THE MOST CHILDISH STUFF, DOESN'T HE, BRENDA?
BRENDA?
EARTH CALLING BRENDA! DO YOU READ?
--AND I SAY PINIELLA'S NOT GONNA LAST THE SEASON!
NEW YORK GIANTS
LIKE A BOOK, DEAR. DON'T TRY TO GET MY MIND OFF WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT MY HAIRCUT!
WHAT I SAID?
LET'S NOT FIGHT. GO ON, STROLL OVER AND GAWK AT GUIDO.
peck
AND WHILE YOU'RE OVER THERE, DECIDE WHETHER MY HAIR LOOKS BETTER FROM A DISTANCE.
IN FACT-- STAY THERE UNTIL IT DOES!
NEW YORK GIANTS
8

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

YEAH, GUIDO AND ME. WE BEEN GOOMBAHS EVER SINCE HIS SISTER WAS DATIN' MY BROTHER. VIC USED TA BEAT UP ON ME ALL THE TIME. BUT GUIDO, HE STOOD UP FOR ME. WE WAS *LIKE FAMILY* ALMOST, YA KNOW?

GEE, THAT'S NICE.

YEAH. GUIDO ALWAYS SAYS HE'S A *LOVER*, NOT A *FIGHTER*, BUT HE DON'T STAND FOR NO NONSENSE, EITHER!

'SCUSE ME A MINUTE. I GOTTA CHECK ON SOMETHIN'.

HI, EDDIE! WAITING FOR SOMEBODY TO PLAY *PINBALL* WITH YOU?

NOT QUITE, MAZE. I'M LEARNING THE FINE ART OF LONG-DISTANCE HAIRSTYLE APPRECIATION AND THIS IS THE FARTHEST AWAY I CAN GET WITHOUT BEING ON MY WAY HOME.

OH.

WHAT'RE YOU-- *DEAF* IN THERE? OPEN THE DOOR BEFORE IT'S *NOVEMBER 3!*

OCTOBER'S PUB

KNOCK KNOCK

YOU, *AGAIN?*

YEAH-- *ME*, AGAIN! AND I'VE GOT MY *PASSPORT!* WITH MY *PICTURE* IN IT! AND MY *DATE OF BIRTH*-- 1957! SEE?!

OCTOBER'S PUB

SO. YOU REALLY *ARE* 29. SORRY--

APOLOGY ACCEPTED. I'LL JUST--

BOINK

--BOARD OF HEALTH DOESN'T ALLOW *ANIMALS* IN HERE!

SLAM

OCTOBER'S PUB

GUIDO! GUIDO! WHY'RE YA PUTTIN' YERSELF THROUGH THIS...?
LIM-BURP!-...BECAUSE I HATE YOU?
YOU HATE ME? YOU HATE ME? WHAT'D I EVER DO T'YOU, 'ANH?
YOU RAN ME OVER WIT' YER BICYCLE! YOU BEAT UP MY SISTER'S BOYFRIEND'S KID BROTHER! YA TRASHED MY HOUSE LOOKIN' FOR THAT CASE O' BEER!
CHEE--IS THAT ALL?!
AND YOU MADE FUN OF MY MOTHER!
WHAT?! NEVER! I NEVER, NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR MOTHER!!
YOU -URP!- DIDN'T...?
'EY, VIC, LET'S BE GOOMBAHS!
IF I SAID ANYTHING ABOUT YOUR FAMILY, IT WAS ABOUT YOUR UGLY GRANDMA...
THAT'S IT! SAL--TWO MORE BEERS OVER HERE!
GEEZ, WHAT A GREAT PLACE!
THEY STILL GOT THE DATES CARVED IN THE WALL, FROM WHEN I GOT MY NOSE BUSTED! AND THE NAMES OF THE FIVE GUYS WHO DONE IT, TOO!
"YOU'RE RIGHT, BRENDA--IT MAKES YOU LOOK MORE MATURE." THAT'S WHAT I'LL SAY.
HEY, GET A LOAD OF THAT GREAT-LOOKIN' WOMAN--AND SHES TALKIN' TO GUIDO'S GOOFY LITTLE PAL!
"IT TOOK ME SOME TIME TO GET USED TO IT, BUT NOW I REALLY LIKE IT."
NAH, SHE WON'T BUY IT.

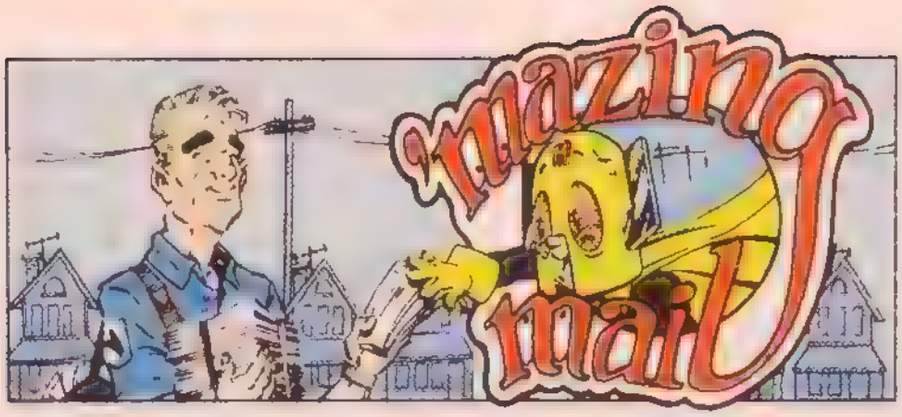
NO BOYFRIENDS IN SIGHT--SHE'S ON HER OWN! HOLD ON, HONEY, TOMMY THE SWINGER IS ON HIS WAY!
"I'M GOING TO BE A LOT MORE THOUGHTFUL, THAT'S FOR SURE." AGGH.
WHY DON'T I JUST COME OUT AND SAY IT? "I HATE YOUR NEW HAIRCUT, BRENDA!"
DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, MAZE. EDDIE JUST HAS A LESSON COMING TO HIM!
KEEP HER TALKIN', LITTLE GUY. TILL I'M READY TO TAKE OVER!
ACTUALLY, SHE DOESN'T LOOK THAT BAD...
I'LL MAKE UP WITH HIM--ANY DAY NOW.
SO, GORGEOUS, LET ME FRESHEN UP YOUR DRINK THERE SO WE CAN GET NICE AN' ACQUAINTED!
I'M MARRIED.
'EY, I KNOW, I KNOW! AND YOU NEED A FRIENDLY SHOULDER TO CRY ON, RIGHT? HUBBY DON'T UNDERSTAND YOU! I KNOW!
I GOT A FRIENDLY SHOULDER... TWO OF 'EM, IN FACT!
SHE SAID... SHE'S MARRIED.
SO? WHAT'RE YOU--HER BIG BROTHER?
NO--
--HER HUSBAND!
GIANTS
11

FIGHT! FIGHT!
EEEEEEEEEEEEEK
'EY, SPAZ IS IN A FIGHT!
SP-SMAZZZZ...?
HEH-HEH. WELL, GUIDO, MY FRIEND, IT WAS NICE PROVIN' AGAIN HOW YOU CAN'T HOLD YER BEER-- FROM NOW ON I'LL CALL YA "SIX-PACK" GARIBALDI, HOW'S'AT?
"SIX-PACK"?
NOW, IF Y'LL EXCUSE ME, I GOTTA BUST ME SOME HEADS!
'EY-- WE AIN'T DONE YET! I'M JUST GETTIN'--
CRAK
--STARTED.
HAH! YOU LOSE, GRIMOLLI!
DENTON! THIS IS THE STUPIDEST, DUMBEST, MOST MORONIC THING YOU'VE EVER MADE ME DO! SUPPOSE SOMEBODY SEES ME LIKE THIS!
CTOBER'S PUB
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY! OUR FAMILY HONOR IS AT STAKE!
YOU ALWAYS TOLD ME WHEN WE WERE GROWING UP THAT YOU DIDN'T MIND YOUR BROTHER LOOKING LIKE A DOG--
--SO HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO PROVE IT. CONVINCE THAT LUMMOX I'M HUMAN!
12

WHICH LUMMOX DO YOU MEAN, DENTON? IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE GOT PLENTY TO CHOOSE FROM...
CRASH
THAK
WHAM
FOOM
NO BOUNCER!
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, SIS! YOU CAN GO HOME NOW BECAUSE...
I'M IN! I'M REALLY IN! I'M REALLY, REALLY...
KRAK
IN TROUBLE
WHAM
CRASH

WHEEE

AAAA



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New York, NY 10103

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L 2331

Dear Stephen and Bob,

Thank you for 'MAZING MAN. It is a remarkable book, and I hope to be around for issue #100. You two have a gift, and it is good to see that you are using it to its utmost.

I am glad to see that there are two stories per issue of MM. To me, the ability to tell an excellent story in just a few short pages, complete with characterization, mood, etc., is a mark of craftsmanship that has been becoming rarer in the comics field as of late. Writers do not write long, involved, multi-issue plots, because that type of pacing allows for a better story; they write long, involved, multi-issue plots, because they then have 6, 8, mayhaps 12 issues to come up with a solution to their story lines. Multi-issue stories are an addicting crutch. Please, do not start using this method of pacing.

A few words about the writing: I simply swoon due to the way that normal, everyday occurrences (a shopping trip, a boring company cocktail party) are so lovingly satirized when one of the characters acts as a catalyst toward producing genuine humor. The writing makes the book worth twice the cover price.

The drawings are so adorable, especially when inked by Karl Kesel. The rings under peoples' eyes make the characters look cute in the absolute best sense of the word.

I am now willing to make a pact with you guys. If you two (and Karl) keep producing a charming, off beat comic book, I will buy MM with religious fervency. Deal?

Paul Lukacs
Cleveland, OH

Dear Mr. Gold,

I have just bought 'MAZING MAN #3 and, like always, I thought it was okay, even though you haven't gotten into the past of 'Mazing Man just yet. Even though it's good to learn a character slowly, there was nothing to learn this issue.

Like always, I find the stories enjoyable and I can't wait for the next issue.

Gerard Cruz
349 E. 193 Street #7
New York, NY 10458

P.S. Is 'Mazing Man going to be included in WHO'S WHO? Because I'm not sure he will be.

Maze appeared in volume 15 of WHO'S WHO (with the May cover date), Gerard. The art was by Stephen and Karl and the text was by Bob R., of course. Stephen DeStefano watchers would do well to shell out a handful of coins for volume 16, too; Stephen penciled Mr. Terrific therein, and Romeo Tanghal inked the page superbly. Finally, while you're scouting up back issues, look into volume 13 (p. 26), where the first official DeStefano-Smith collaboration saw print; the character is Little Boy Blue.

Dear Alan Gold·

I really liked 'MAZING MAN #3. I thought #1 and 2 were truly sappy and was heard to remark on numerous occasions that the poster was better than the comic book. However, I seem to have become accustomed to the emotionalism and sentimentality, so little of which I experience in real life.

Robert Sekeny
P.O. Box 10101
Erie, PA 16512

Hold on a minute! Will somebody out there please give Robert a nice big hug or something?!

Dear Gentlemen,

Congrats on another weird issue (no. 3). Two good jobs, but I liked the second story better than the first. Why? Because, while the *Cosby Show*-style humor, like the excuses not to go to the party, were funny, the serious parts, like Eddie getting upset, is not funny. "Brilliant observation," you think. The point I'm trying to make is that I buy this book, of all books, for funny entertainment. Not that you've misrepresented anything, just that it doesn't fit with the overall mood of the book. The only reason the home-distress bit worked in the second story is because we, the readers, are in on the joke before this guy starts and laugh at what we know is coming. My suggestion is to avoid it. But don't get me wrong—I love this book, and I really liked issue #3, except for about two pages. Stray comments: I think I predicted this in another letter, and I was right. It doesn't look as good if Karl Kesel doesn't ink the story. However, if it has to be, Gary Martin did an acceptable job. Sorry this letter's such a downer. I'll write a more "up" letter next ish.

Marcus Tonti
3 Storer Court
Morganville, NJ 07751

Not that I aim to be a contrary kind of guy, Marcus, but this issue's lead story, inked by Bob Smith, proved you wrong—now, admit it! Not that Karl doesn't ink Stephen's art inexpressibly well—he does! And many, many very fine embellishers have tried to ink Stephen's pencils with something short of success. But, face it, if Karl leaves this book, he'll have a worthy successor in Bob. (And by the way, I think Gary Martin really got the hang of inking Stephen, too, in "Hygiene Hijinx." Let me know what you think.)

Hello,

I *hate* funny comics. I always have and I always will. Don't *ever* expect me to buy one, no matter what.

But I *love* 'MAZING MAN! Never has there been a humor book like it. It isn't drawn by some hack artist who couldn't get a job anywhere else. Indeed, the art in this book is equal to most if not all more "serious" books and better than most. Actually, I think DeStefano's pencils strongly resemble Rick Leonardi's, and I like it, I like it!

But the best part of the book is its creativity. Whereas most humor books rely on bad parody or silly slapstick, 'MAZING MAN is unspeakably gentle, warm, and comforting. The humor flows smoothly from the characters rather than being forced from stupid situations. I've just read #3 and it gets better all the time.

Thanks, guys, and 'Make 'Mine 'MAZING 'MAN!

Mic McConnell
1910 Le Suer Road
Richmond, VA 23229

Dear Alan Gold,

Once in awhile, a series comes around that is so good, so different, that I know it is going to get cancelled. Some of Jack Kirby's stuff and the Englehart/Gerber MISTER MIRACLE comes to mind. Now I am afraid that 'MAZING MAN will join that category.

With only three issues, MM has become my 2nd favorite DC regular (or should I say irregular) series. (SWAMP THING is still #1.) The atmosphere of MM is very *Spirit*-like to me. The characters are realistic and likable just like the cast surrounding the Spirit. I especially like Eddie and Brenda.

The reason why I am worried over the future of MM is the reason why I like it. It is aimed at the intelligent reader. No mutants, no super, cosmic, ego-alienated, earth shattering villains, just 'Mazing Man doing (or trying to do) good deeds and his interaction with the neighborhood. This is the type of book that I did not expect one of the major publishers to do. I hope that DC is willing to give MM a long time to find its audience like it gave Swampy. If not, I hope that the rights can be assigned to Stephen DeStefano and Bob Rozakis so that they can continue the adventures of 'Mazing Man for a small independent.

J. Alexander Hall
P.O. Box 182
Santa Clara, CA 95052

Dear Comicreators

I've read the third issue of your 'MAZING MAN comic (at least I think it's the third issue, on the cover it has a "3" above the cover price), and at this time I would like to say something nobody else has said about the book. I think 'MAZING MAN is so lousy that John Byrne is going to see it and say, "If you publish dreck like this, I'm not going to do SUPERMAN for you," and as a result cause DC Comics to go out of business. (I don't really mean what I just said, but I don't think anyone else is going to say that about 'MAZING MAN.) What I really think is that 'MAZ-

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

ING MAN has gone from a "Why did I waste 75¢ on this trash?" book to become one of my favorite comics. From what I read about it in the fan press, the book looked interesting, but the first issue didn't meet with my expectations. I bought the second issue and liked it. I reread #1 and found that I *did* like it. Yes, I liked #3 as well. I'll probably like #4, too. And #5. And #6. (Continued on page 94...)

My favorite part of #3 was where Eddie was talking about how great the Mets are, and mentions some players by name. Speaking as a Mets fan who went to about 25 games in '85, I loved it! However, since DC comics are sold all over the world (even in Brooklyn, I'm told), I was concerned about how well that line would go over in countries where they don't play baseball. To most foreigners, names such as Dwight Gooden, Darryl Strawberry, and Gary Carter mean as much as the names Marv Wolfman, George Perez, and even John Byrne do to the average, non-comics-reading American.

Do you do requests? I'd like to see a story where Maze convinces a reluctant merchant to refund nickels on deposit bottles and cans. This is right up 'Mazing Man's alley, and his stories take place in New York, a state where people have to pay a deposit on soda cans. It would make my day.

Gary Dunaier
67-18 Parsons Blvd.
Flushing, NY
(Mets country) 11365-2925

My heart!! Don't pull pranks like that on an ol' geezer, Gary! If you like our funnybook, don't be so convincing in sounding like you hate it!

Your comment about our references to the New York Mets has merit. Some of our jokes and references may not travel well, but that's a risk we're willing to take. We're trying to create *New York Citizens*; a British reader might not know what position Dwight Gooden plays, but he'd guess from the context that Gooden's a ballplayer—and that's all he'd need to know, I think, to guess Eddie's gaffe.

Dear Stephen, Bob, and Alan,

I don't know how you manage it, but you've done it again! 'MAZING MAN #3 was the third in your series of how to write children's comics for adults, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. Even though Eddie, Brenda, and Mr. Sax took the spotlight, you still managed to advance the current plot by safely getting rid of the skunks (whew!) and giving us several new insights into the character of DC's most naive, original, and lovable super-hero.

You know, if 'MAZING MAN didn't star a four foot, cloaked weirdo and someone who looks like a beagle, it would be referred to as "social realism." Even though the art's slightly cartoony, the characters you've created, even the bit parts like Bill Wong, are very true to life even on this side of the Atlantic. Setting Maze and his happy-go-lucky attitude against this background of "real" people was a gamble, but the wonderful humor of the finished product shows that it's paid off. These days I reread 'MAZING MAN more times than I do SWAMP THING.

A few questions: when are we going to find out about Maze's helmet, or is that being saved for the "Secret Origin of 'Mazing Man Special Double Sized Issue"? Is there any chance of seeing one of Denton's *Splendid Dog* stories as a back-up? And does it matter that I read the book without wearing clean socks? (I'm a student; I don't have any!)

James Wallis
Room C302 Lambeth Block
All Saints Halls of Residence
College Road
Tottenham, N. London N17 8EA

Clean socks are optional for most issues of 'MAZING MAN, James. However, clean, dry hands are a must; if you rust your staples, you have only yourself to blame.

We should be getting around to a Splendid Dog story one of these days. For now, you'll have to make do with the Very Fun Adventures of Zoot Sputnik and His Friends.

We have no plans for revealing anything like an "origin" for Maze. We intend to keep him a man of mystery for as long as you can stand it.

Stephen & Bob,

I just finished 'MAZING MAN #3 and I enjoyed it as much as #1 and 2. It's refreshing to read a fun comic—the only other fun comic that comes to mind would be GROO. Stephen and Bob's cast of characters are very like people I'm sure we all know. Denton and 'Mazing Man's appearance aren't far from the truth, either. The story continuity has been managed with great finesse, as well as the realistic portrayal of society in the 1980s.

One question. Was that a Zappa reference on p. 14 in issue #3?

Stephen and Bob, thanks for sharing 'MAZING MAN with us, and DC, thanks for sharing Stephen and Bob's talents with us.

Greg Fleming-Wolfe
2016 St. Clair
St. Paul, MN 55105

That *inventive* movie marquee comes courtesy of our irrepressible lettering dickens, Bob Lappan. He improvises all over the premises, if you must know.

Speaking of fun comics ... have you taken a look at BLUE DEVIL lately? It's edited brilliantly by a very good friend of mine.

Hi, Fellas,

I don't care what Don Thompson says. Don't give Denton a face-lift! Thanks for a *really* funny comic.

Pete Corson
1109 Gunnison Place
Raleigh, NC 27609

P.S. Did Brenda 'n Eddie come right out of Billy Joel's *Italian Restaurant*, or is that just a coincidence?

Actually, Pete, Stephen sez the Valentines are based on an actual, for-real twosome he knows. The coupling of names may have been a coincidence, but knowing Stephen's fondness for the music of Billy Joel, I'd guess it's more along the lines of an hommage.

Thanks for the vote of confidence regarding Denton's good looks. (Pete refers to a very kind review in the *Comics Buyer's Guide*, wherein Don Thompson gave thumbs up for 'MAZING MAN but found Denton's appearance seriously jarring.)

Thanks, too, to everyone else who wrote:

Malcolm Bourne
Matthew Paul
T.M. Maple
Eric James Bach
Andrew Gold
Nage Clapton
Elvis Orten
Philip A. Brady
D. Fonseca
James Nichols
J.J. from Fairmount, WV
Ernest Pelletier, Jr.
John "The Hacker" Burch
Kevin M. Newman
Charles David Haskell
George A. Williams
Vinnie Bartilucci **(thanks for the really cute cartoon!)**
Angsom Sim
The Mad Norm De-Plumer
CEA from Irondequoit, NY
Robert Keefer **(I take the blame for any confusion over creative credits on this book. Because it sounded better to me, I put "Created by Stephen DeStefano and Bob Rozakis" under the logo, forgetting that top billing generally goes to the writer in this business. Anyway, Bob is the official writer and Stephen created the visuals for this series. However, Bob was so excited to be praised for his drawing ability, he rushed off for my delectation the art samples shown at the bottom of this page. I think the kid shows promise!)**

NEXT ISSUE: K P and Denton's grandma makes herself at home in their apartment. For how long? Who knows! Plus: Maze babysits for a neighbor's cat—and kitty gets stuck in the wall! Plus: the further Fun Adventures of Zoot Sputnik and His Friends—behind German lines in WWII! What a bargain!

—Alan

"BERNIE CORNFELDT HAS *TWO RULES* FOR HIS WRITERS. FIRST, '*TYPE NEAT!*' TOO MANY TYPOS AND BERNIE DOES A *FOX TROT* ON YOUR OPUS.

"SECOND, '*KEEP IT SIMPLE ENOUGH FOR A MORON!*' LOTS OF MINDLESS ACTION AND PRONOUNCEABLE NAMES.

"BERNIE SAYS HE *LOVES* THIS DRECK. STILL, THERE ARE *TIMES* WHEN I WONDER...

"...WHEN HE HANDS ME ASSIGNMENTS LIKE..."

The VERY FUN ADVENTURES of ZOOT SPUTNIK and his FRIENDS!!!

DENTON FIXX writer
FRED HEMBECK artist
BOB LAPPAN letterer
TOM ZIUKO colorist
BERNARD I. CORNFELDT editor-in-chief

SPACE! AND HURTLING THROUGH THE AIRLESS SEA OF DARKNESS--THE AWESOME STARSHIP *SHVOOOM!* A POWERFUL VESSEL PILOTED BY A *POWERFUL MAN*--

--A *MAN'S MAN*...

ZOOT SPUTNIK, OF THE G.G.G.!

STAND STRAIGHT AND AT THE *READY*, FRIENDS... *WE'RE ALMOST THERE...!*

AND DARING DEEP-SPACE ALONG WITH ZOOT IS HIS EVER-FAITHFUL CREW

HIS ADOPTED SON, *WINKY!*

CHEEKEEZ, ZOOT, I'M SO *EXCITED!*

...DR. *SILO K. ZAP*, EARTH'S GREATEST SCIENTIFIC MIND!

HM!

.. AND *JUDY*, ZAP'S DUTIFUL DAUGHTER!

I'M ALL GOOSE-PIMPLY!

AND, IN A COOL, DARK CORNER, ON A SWELL MACRAME' RUG...

RUMF

.. THEIR MASCOT, *BARKER!*

THAT'S *IT*- RIGHT, ZOOT? *CHEEKEEZ!*

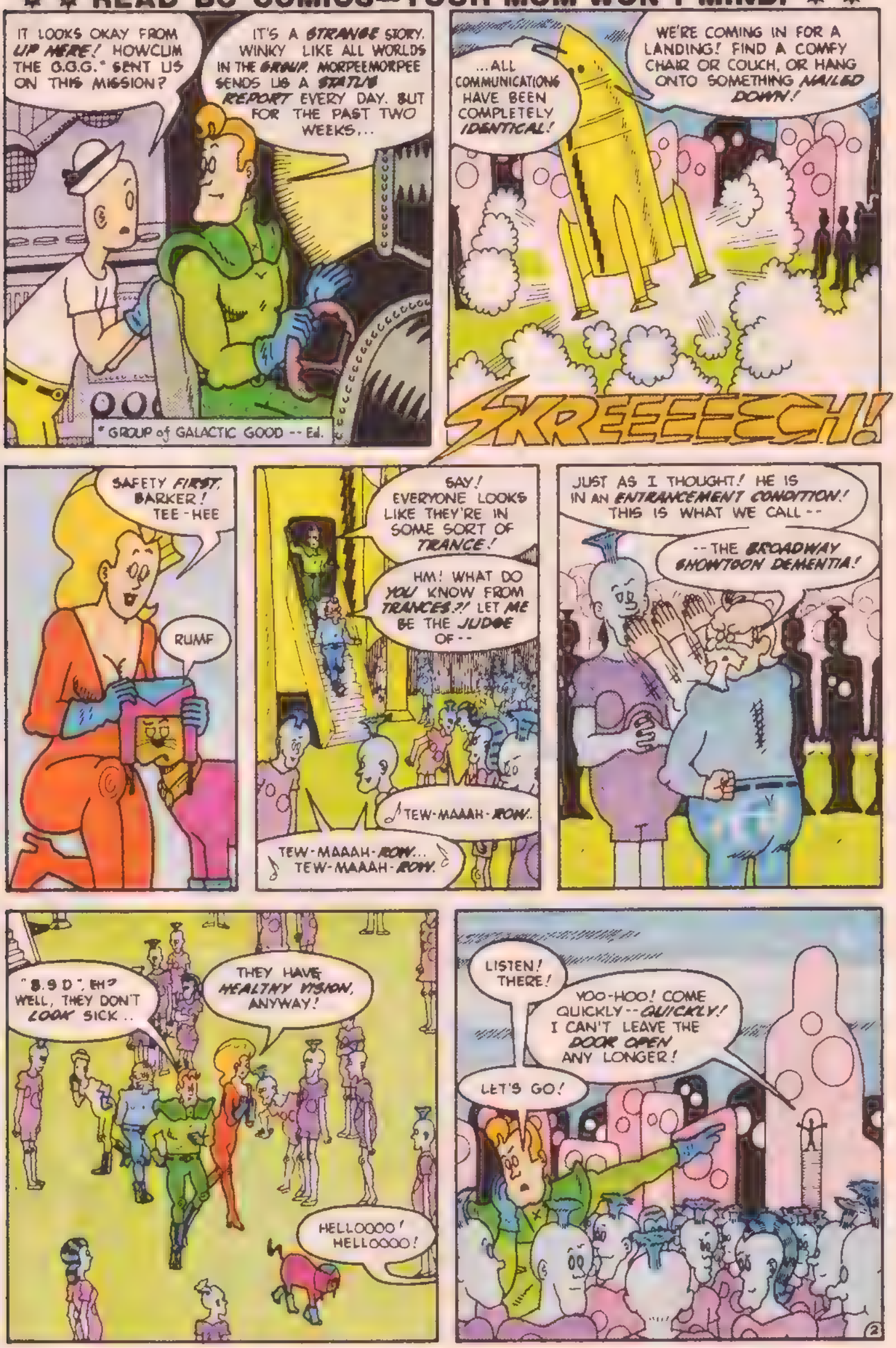
SURE *IS*, SON...

...THE PLANET *MORPEEMORPEE!*

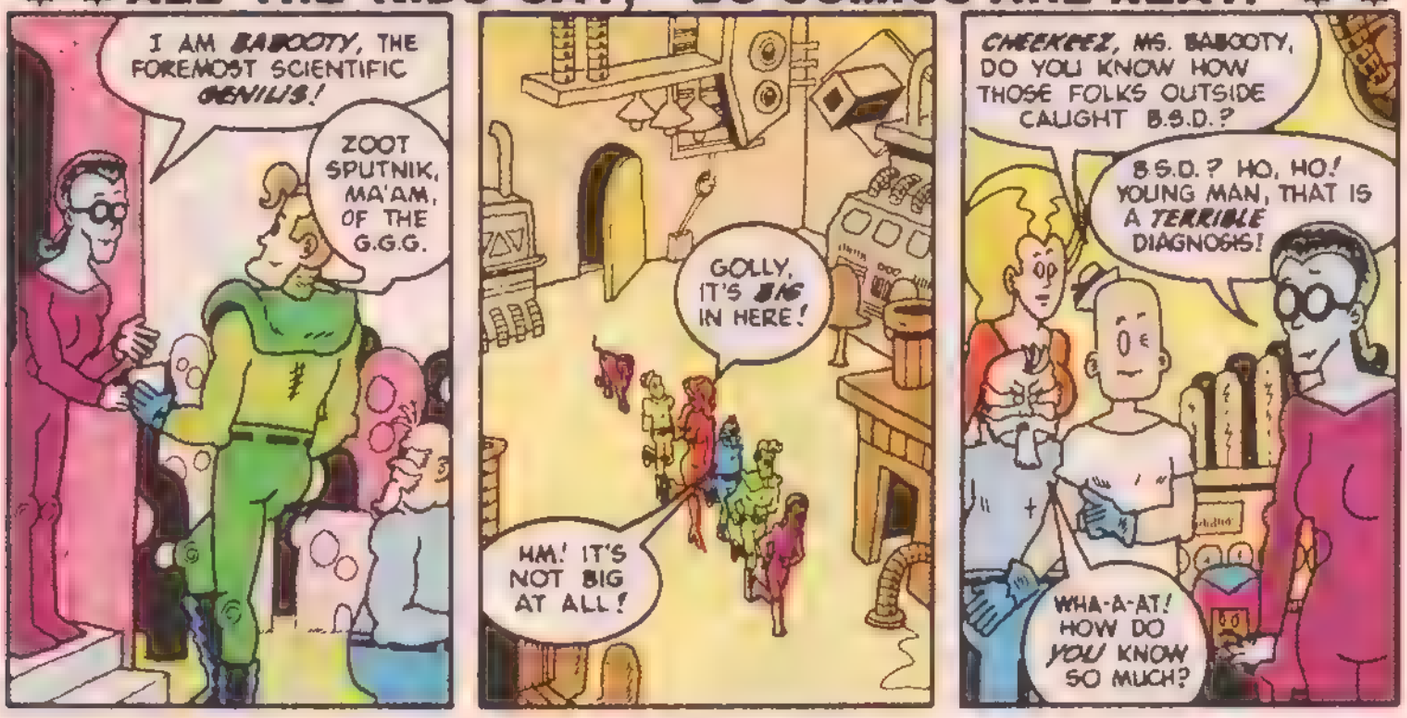
1

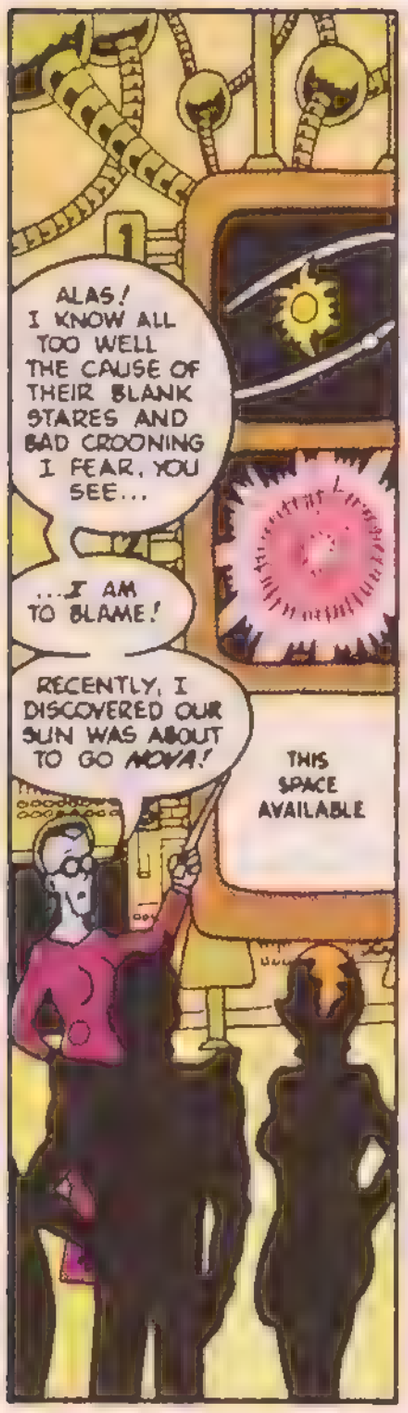
THE PLANET THAT FELL FROM TOMORROW!

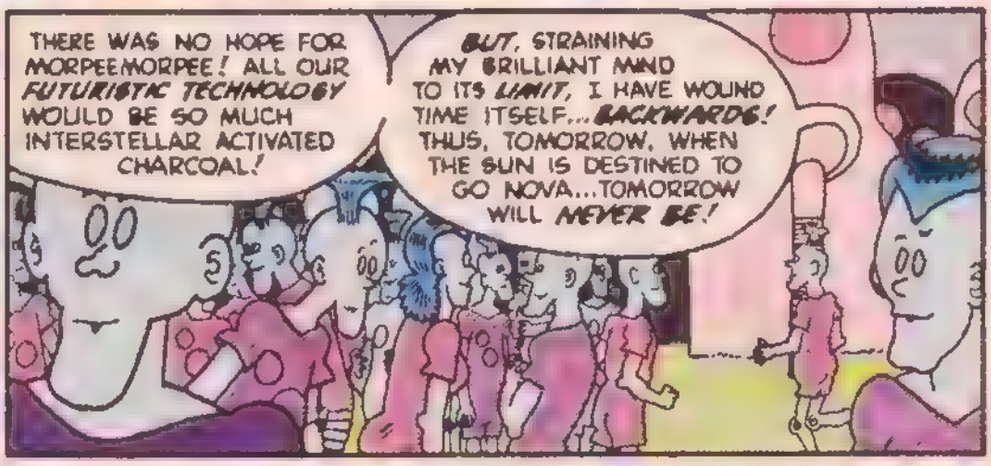
✸ ✸ READ BC COMICS--YOUR MOM WON'T MIND! ✸ ✸

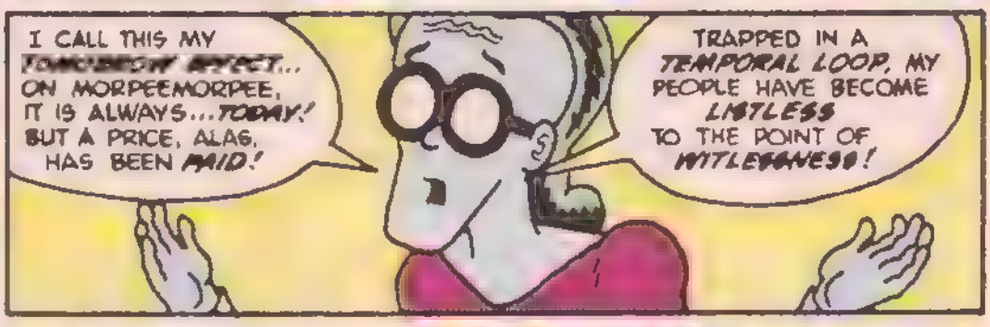

IT LOOKS OKAY FROM UP HERE! HOWCUM THE G.G.G.* SENT US ON THIS MISSION?
IT'S A STRANGE STORY, WINKY LIKE ALL WORLDS IN THE GRUP. MORPEEMORPEE SENDS US A STATUS REPORT EVERY DAY. BUT FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS...
* GROUP of GALACTIC GOOD -- Ed.
...ALL COMMUNICATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY IDENTICAL!
WE'RE COMING IN FOR A LANDING! FIND A COMFY CHAIR OR COUCH, OR HANG ONTO SOMETHING NAILED DOWN!
SKREEEEECH!
SAFETY FIRST, BARKER! TEE-HEE
RUMF
SAY! EVERYONE LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE IN SOME SORT OF TRANCE!
HM! WHAT DO YOU KNOW FROM TRANCES?! LET ME BE THE JUDGE OF--
♪TEW-MAAAH-BOW!
TEW-MAAAH-BOW... TEW-MAAAH-BOW.
JUST AS I THOUGHT! HE IS IN AN ENTRANCEMENT CONDITION! THIS IS WHAT WE CALL--
--THE BROADWAY SHOWTOON DEMENTIA!
"S.S.D.", EH? WELL, THEY DON'T LOOK SICK..
THEY HAVE HEALTHY VISION, ANYWAY!
HELLOOOO! HELLOOOO!
LISTEN! THERE!
YOO-HOO! COME QUICKLY--QUICKLY! I CAN'T LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN ANY LONGER!
LET'S GO!
2

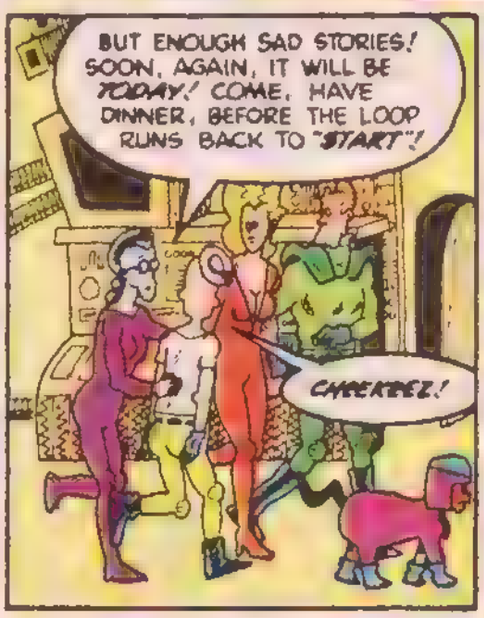
✲ ✲ ALL THE KIDS SAY, "BC COMICS ARE NEAT!" ✲ ✲

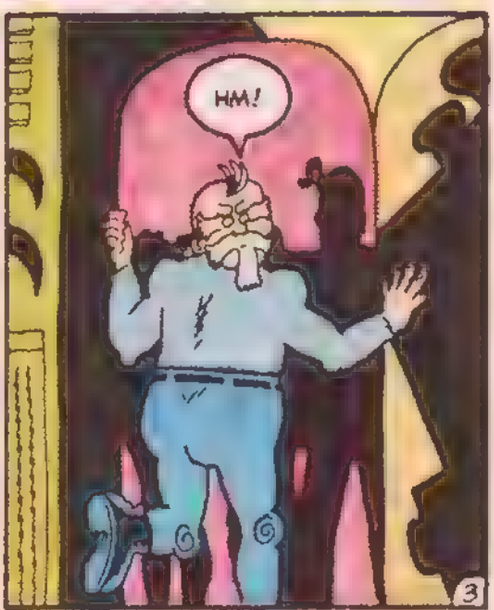

I AM BABOOTY, THE FOREMOST SCIENTIFIC GENIUS!
ZOOT SPUTNIK, MA'AM, OF THE G.G.G.
GOLLY, IT'S BIG IN HERE!
HM! IT'S NOT BIG AT ALL!
CHEEKEEZ, MS. BABOOTY, DO YOU KNOW HOW THOSE FOLKS OUTSIDE CAUGHT B.S.D.?
B.S.D.? HO, HO! YOUNG MAN, THAT IS A TERRIBLE DIAGNOSIS!
WHA-A-AT! HOW DO YOU KNOW SO MUCH?


ALAS! I KNOW ALL TOO WELL THE CAUSE OF THEIR BLANK STARES AND BAD CROONING I FEAR, YOU SEE...
...I AM TO BLAME!
RECENTLY, I DISCOVERED OUR SUN WAS ABOUT TO GO NOVA!
THIS SPACE AVAILABLE


THERE WAS NO HOPE FOR MORPEEMORPEE! ALL OUR FUTURISTIC TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE SO MUCH INTERSTELLAR ACTIVATED CHARCOAL!
BUT, STRAINING MY BRILLIANT MIND TO ITS LIMIT, I HAVE WOUND TIME ITSELF...BACKWARDS! THUS, TOMORROW, WHEN THE SUN IS DESTINED TO GO NOVA...TOMORROW WILL NEVER BE!


I CALL THIS MY [illegible] EFFECT... ON MORPEEMORPEE, IT IS ALWAYS...TODAY! BUT A PRICE, ALAS, HAS BEEN PAID!
TRAPPED IN A TEMPORAL LOOP, MY PEOPLE HAVE BECOME LISTLESS TO THE POINT OF WITTLESSNESS!





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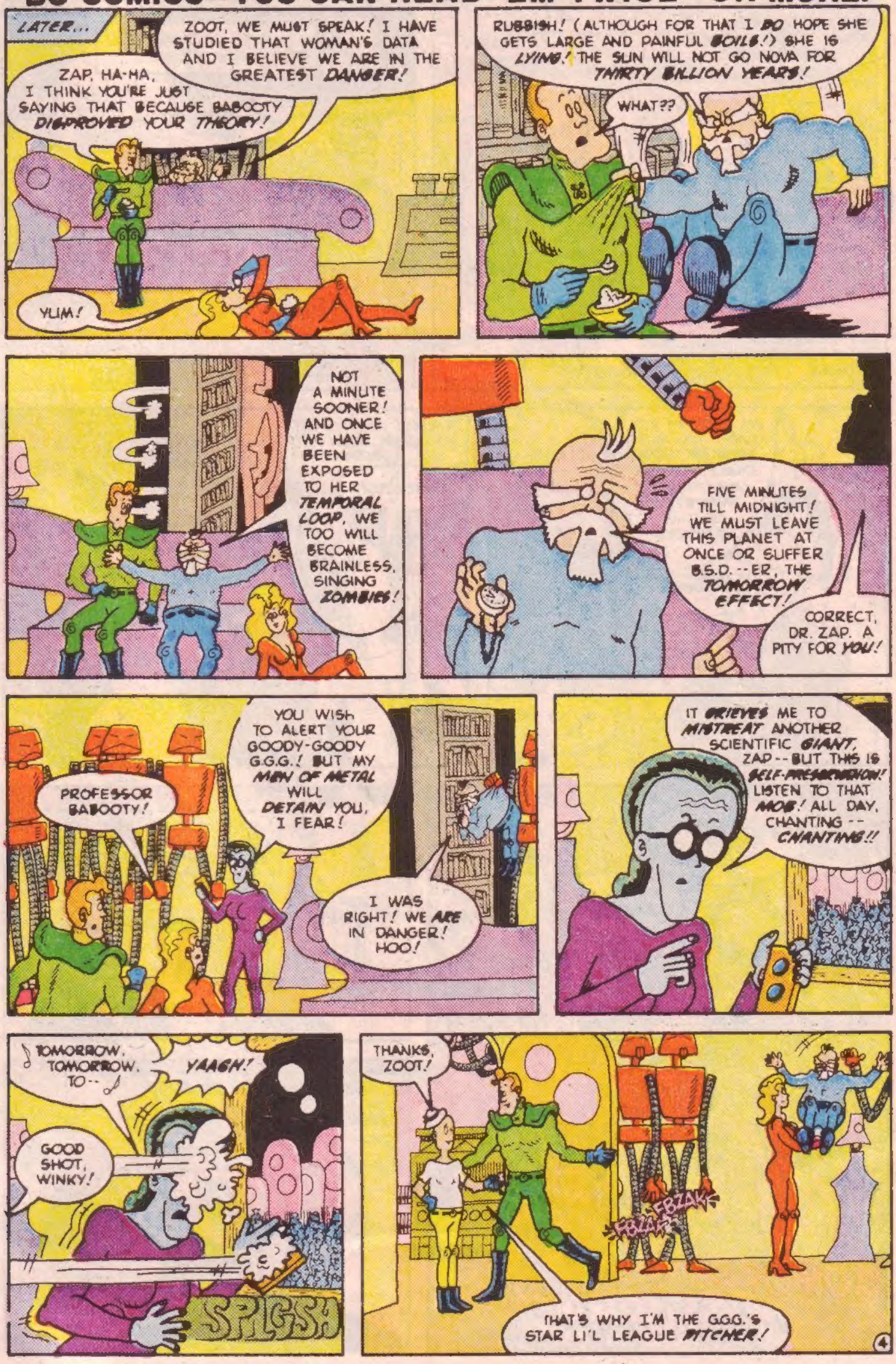
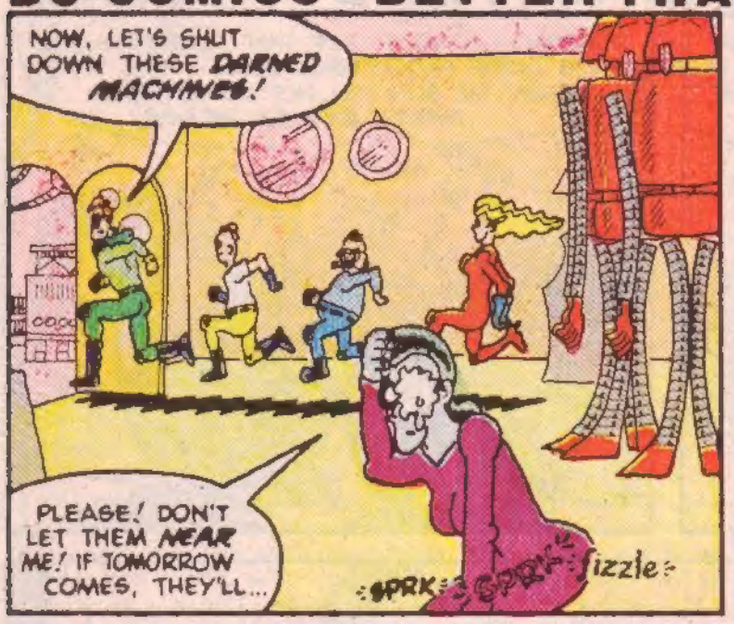
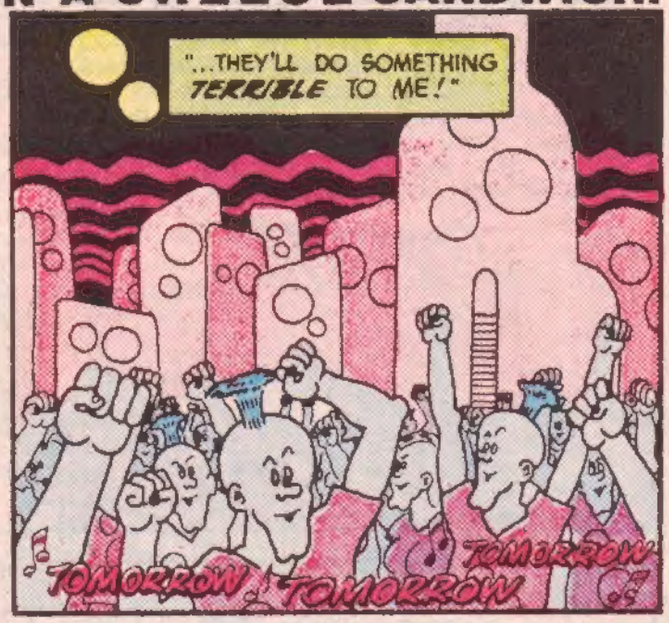
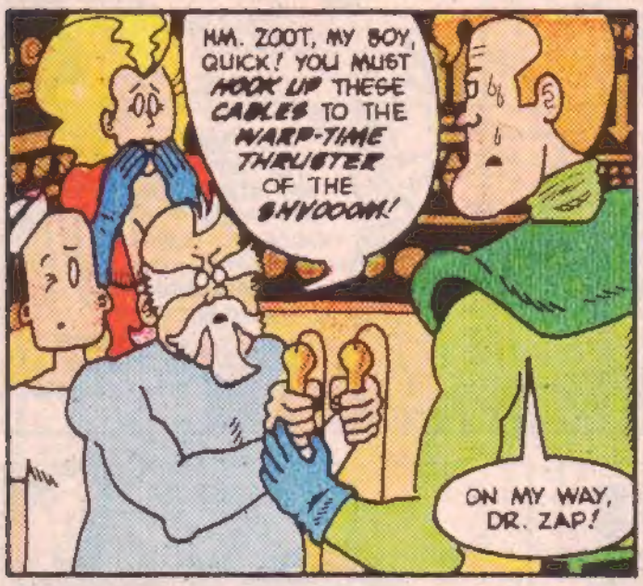
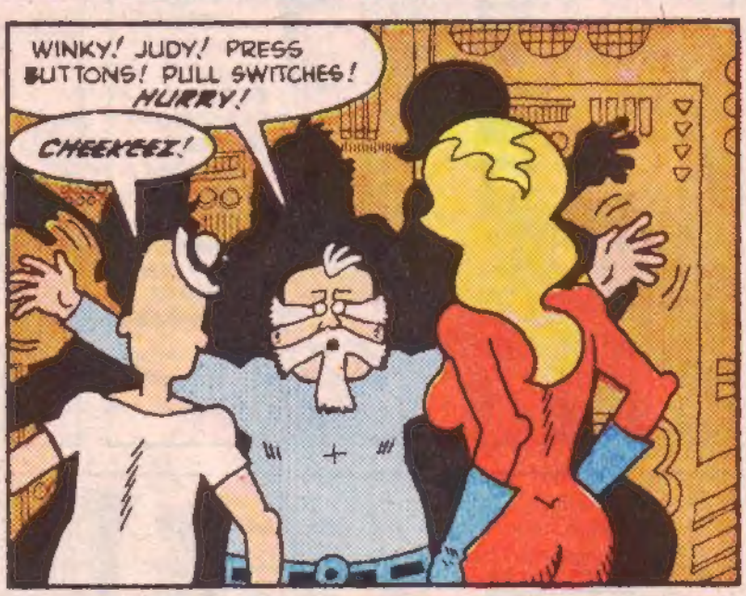

LATER...
ZOOT, WE MUST SPEAK! I HAVE STUDIED THAT WOMAN'S DATA AND I BELIEVE WE ARE IN THE GREATEST DANGER!
ZAP, HA-HA, I THINK YOU'RE JUST SAYING THAT BECAUSE BABOOTY DISPROVED YOUR THEORY!
YUM!
RUBBISH! (ALTHOUGH FOR THAT I DO HOPE SHE GETS LARGE AND PAINFUL BOILS!) SHE IS LYING! THE SUN WILL NOT GO NOVA FOR THIRTY BILLION YEARS!
WHAT??
NOT A MINUTE SOONER! AND ONCE WE HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HER TEMPORAL LOOP, WE TOO WILL BECOME BRAINLESS, SINGING ZOMBIES!
FIVE MINUTES TILL MIDNIGHT! WE MUST LEAVE THIS PLANET AT ONCE OR SUFFER B.S.D. -- ER, THE TOMORROW EFFECT!
CORRECT, DR. ZAP. A PITY FOR YOU!
PROFESSOR BABOOTY!
YOU WISH TO ALERT YOUR GOODY-GOODY G.G.G.! BUT MY MEN OF METAL WILL DETAIN YOU, I FEAR!
I WAS RIGHT! WE ARE IN DANGER! HOO!
IT GRIEVES ME TO MISTREAT ANOTHER SCIENTIFIC GIANT, ZAP -- BUT THIS IS SELF-PRESERVATION! LISTEN TO THAT MOB! ALL DAY, CHANTING -- CHANTING!!
♪ TOMORROW, TOMORROW, TO -- ♪
YAAGH!
GOOD SHOT, WINKY!
SPLOSH
THANKS, ZOOT!
FBZAK!
FBLAT!
THAT'S WHY I'M THE G.G.G.'S STAR LI'L LEAGUE PITCHER!
4

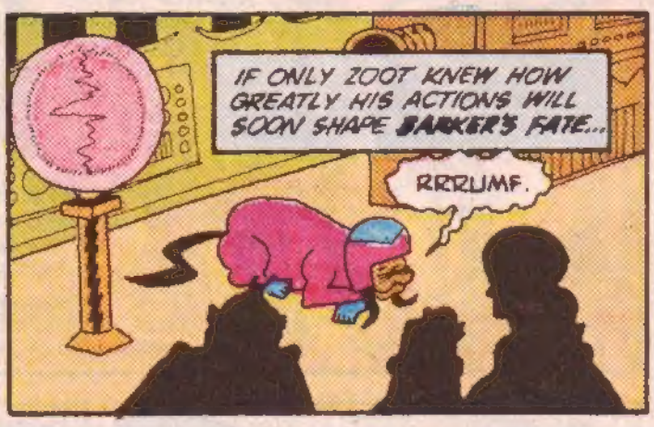

NOW, LET'S SHUT DOWN THESE DARNED MACHINES!
PLEASE! DON'T LET THEM NEAR ME! IF TOMORROW COMES, THEY'LL...
:SPRK: :SPRK: :izzle:

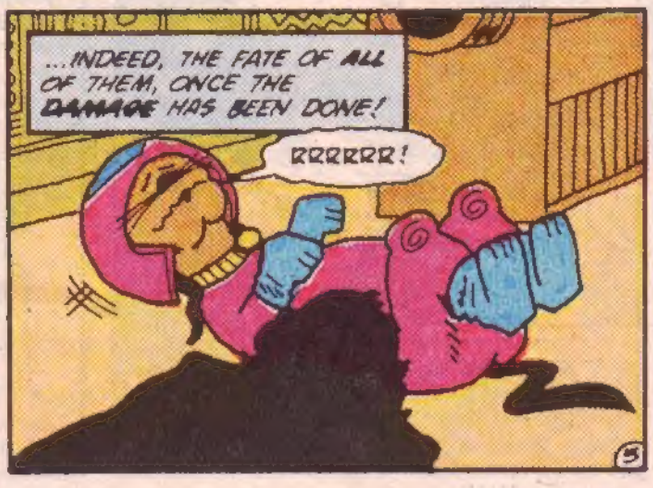

"...THEY'LL DO SOMETHING TERRIBLE TO ME!"
TOMORROW! TOMORROW

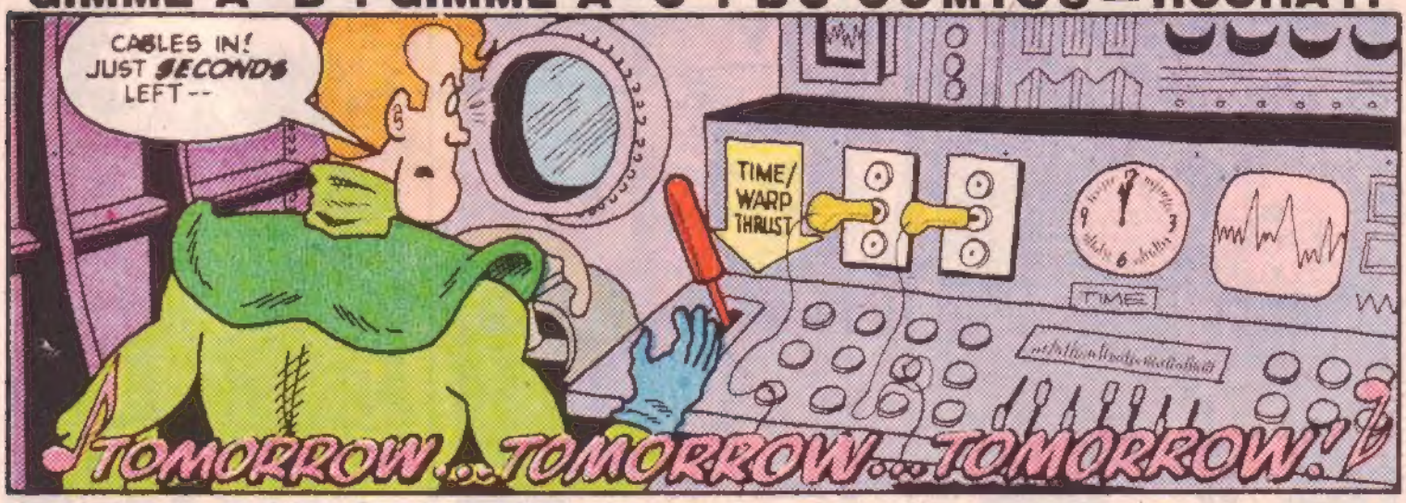

HM. ZOOT, MY BOY, QUICK! YOU MUST HOOK UP THESE CABLES TO THE WARP-TIME THRUSTER OF THE SHVOOOM!
ON MY WAY, DR. ZAP!


WINKY! JUDY! PRESS BUTTONS! PULL SWITCHES! HURRY!
CHEEKEEZ!

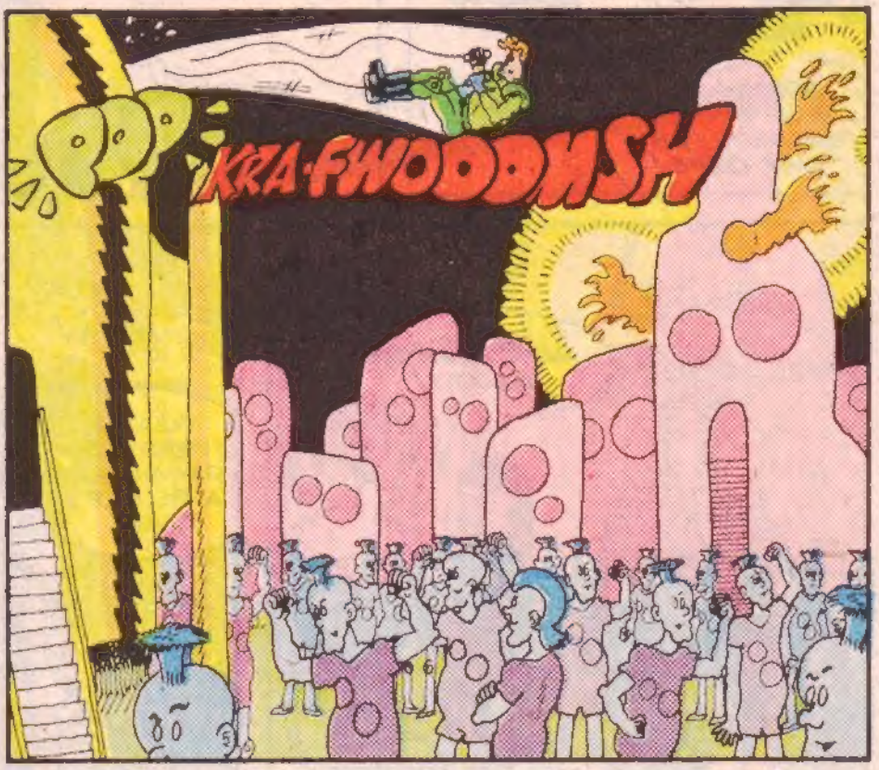
UNH! EVERYBODY'S COUNTING ON ME--
--EVEN BARKER!
TOMORROW! TOMORROW! TOMORROW!


IF ONLY ZOOT KNEW HOW GREATLY HIS ACTIONS WILL SOON SHAPE BARKER'S FATE...
RRRUMF.

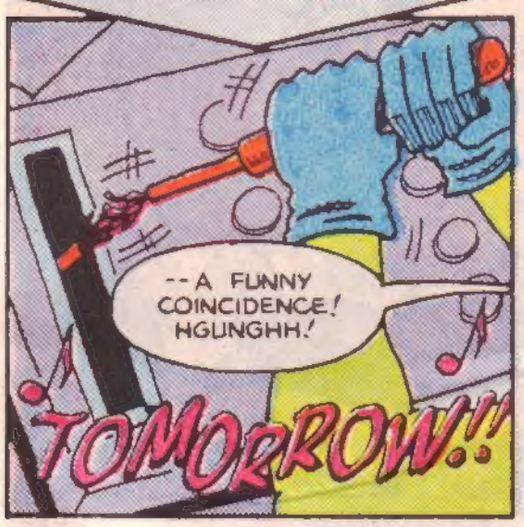

...INDEED, THE FATE OF ALL OF THEM, ONCE THE DAMAGE HAS BEEN DONE!
RRRRRR!
5

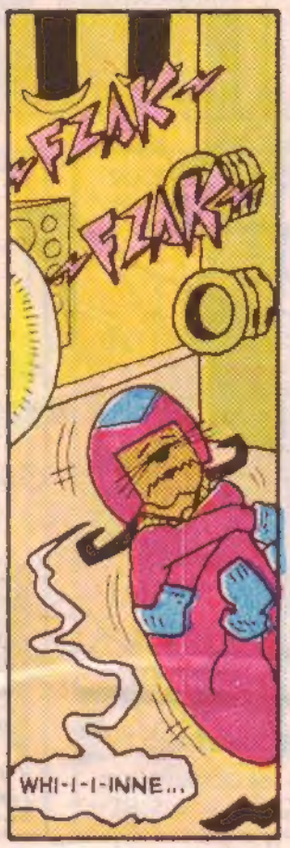

CABLES IN! JUST SECONDS LEFT--
TIME/ WARP THRUST
TIME
TOMORROW...TOMORROW...TOMORROW!

UNNNH! THE LEVER--
--WON'T BUDGE! UNNNH!
TOMORROW-TOMORROW-TOMORROW


KRA-FWOOOHSH

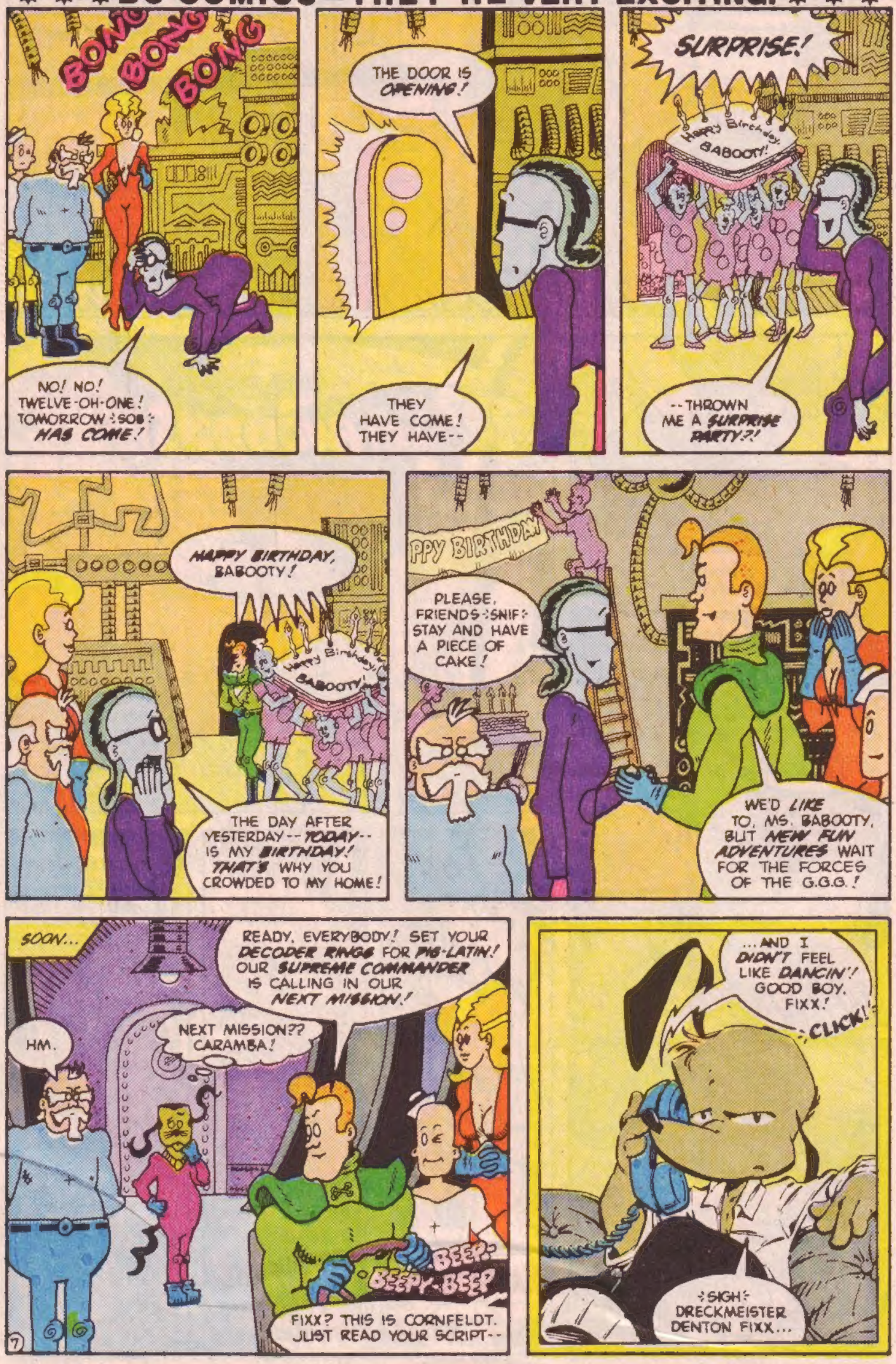
BLAST! I GUESS THIS-- UNHH-- IS WHAT ZAP CALLS-- UNHH--
TOMORROW! TOMORROW!


--A FUNNY COINCIDENCE! HGUNGHH!
TOMORROW!!


FZAK-
FZAK-
WHI-I-I-INNE...

F-KZAK
YYAARGHH!

HO-LEE CROW!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?


BONG
BONG
BONG
NO! NO! TWELVE-OH-ONE! TOMORROW :SOB: HAS COME!
THE DOOR IS OPENING!
THEY HAVE COME! THEY HAVE--
SURPRISE!
Happy Birthday BABOOTY!
--THROWN ME A SURPRISE PARTY?!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, BABOOTY!
Happy Birthday BABOOTY!
THE DAY AFTER YESTERDAY--TODAY-- IS MY BIRTHDAY! THAT'S WHY YOU CROWDED TO MY HOME!
PPY BIRTHDAY
PLEASE, FRIENDS :SNIF: STAY AND HAVE A PIECE OF CAKE!
WE'D LIKE TO, MS. BABOOTY, BUT NEW FUN ADVENTURES WAIT FOR THE FORCES OF THE G.G.G.!
SOON...
READY, EVERYBODY! SET YOUR DECODER RINGS FOR PIG-LATIN! OUR SUPREME COMMANDER IS CALLING IN OUR NEXT MISSION!
HM.
NEXT MISSION?? CARAMBA!
BEEP-BEEPY-BEEP
FIXX? THIS IS CORNFELDT. JUST READ YOUR SCRIPT--
7
...AND I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE DANCIN'! GOOD BOY, FIXX!
:CLICK!:
:SIGH: DRECKMEISTER DENTON FIXX...